

Shelton Land Conservation Trust, Inc.

P.O. Box 2276 • Huntington Station • Shelton, Connecticut 06484

www.sheltonlandtrust.org

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To: USDA

From: Shelton Land Conservation Trust

Date: October 1, 2005

Re: Farm Bill; Invasive Plant Funding

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Shelton Land Conservation Trust I write to express the Trust's comments and concerns about the benefits funding provides for education and management of invasive plant species. We are in full support of any funding for education, research, management, and control programs for invasive plant species.

Our organization realized the need to learn about and manage invasive plants in the fall of 2003 after a work party at our Nicholdale Farm parcel. That day a few of our members noticed that our parcel was being taken over by a variety of plants. While some of our members had previous experience with identifying and the removal of invasive plants we realized that we needed to find someone to help with the identification of what was taking over the fields and woodlands.

In early spring of 2004 we met with a USDA representative, who helped identify a number of invasive plants on the parcel and gave us some management and restoration tips. This resulted in a voluntary commitment to slowly combat the identified plants. As we continued to educate ourselves we became familiar with the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group and others that were able to help with identification, management and control.

While a great amount of clearing of multiflora rose, autumn olive, and oriental bittersweet was conducted by volunteers, we realized that there was a need for some larger equipment to help with the clearing and allow for better use of volunteer labor. In early 2005 the trust was awarded funding from the Iroquois Gas Transmission System LEAF Grant to bring in some specialized equipment and expand our invasive plant management goals. A recommendation from Iroquois for long term invasive plant management and maintenance led to the Trust's application for WHIP funding, resulting in another success with our invasive plant management program. WHIP has enabled us to continue our efforts with invasive plant removal and the development of a better habitat for various species for years to come.



SLCT - Preserving and maintaining Shelton's natural land resources.



As stewards of the land we know that land often times needs to be maintained for optimum biodiversity. While a new concept to some, we hope to learn from experts in the field, apply various techniques, and share our findings with others as we continue to educate ourselves.

Our biggest finding has been that if you cut, pull or remove these plants completely and leave bare soil, a whole new group of mostly invasive plants often grow in these areas. We believe that the introduction of non invasive seed mixes and plantings are something that should be considered when any land clearing or development is done to prevent the opportunistic invasive plants that often grow up when areas are left to re-grow on their own. In a community of rapid growth and development we can see first hand results of this minor but important detail. We can only hope that local land use boards, possibly with USDA's guidance, will see the importance of establishing non invasive plantings in disturbed areas to help reduce the spread of the plants many are trying to eradicate.

It is great to have the resources available and the financial assistance to help do our part to reduce and eliminate invasive plants on our parcels. We will continue to reduce the invasive plants on our parcels and use our experiences to educate others. We hope that one day our organization can be of assistance to other landowners wishing to better manage their land. Please continue all funding that helps with invasive plant education and management.

Thank you for considering our concerns.

Sincerely,

Joseph Welsh
President
Shelton Land Conservation Trust

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE
SECRETARIAT, USBA

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COPIES: _____

SLCT Needs Your Help

What You Can Do

Become a Member

Membership offers an opportunity to support and participate in local land conservation efforts.

Donations: Monetary

The Trust is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Your donations go directly help preserve local open space, and are tax deductible.

Donations: Land

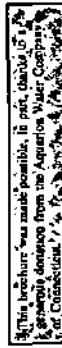
Land preservation is our primary activity. Full or partial donations of land offer tax benefits to the donor and provide a lasting benefit to the community.

Donations: Time - Volunteer

Become a land monitor or help maintain property and trails.

Bequests

Create a lasting legacy for the community by naming the Shelton Land Conservation Trust in your will.



SHELTON

Land Conservation Trust, Inc.

www.sheltonlandtrust.org



The Trust is dedicated to the preservation of natural land resources in the City of Shelton. It strongly supports and encourages the education of the public regarding local natural resources, as well as the gifting of land, or its purchase (if and when necessary or possible) for the sake of preservation. The Trust is also dedicated to the stewardship and maintenance of these lands for the public benefit.

Trust Properties

PROPERTY	ACRES
1. End of September Lane	3.40
2. End of Deborah Drive	3.13
3. Huntington Circle	1.88
4. Commerce Drive	3.89
5. Commerce Drive	12.66
6. Far Mill Street	.30
7. Mulberry Lane	20.68
8. Horse Stable Circle	13.29
9. End of Adams Drive	3.84
10. Off Lane Street	17.15
11. End of Barbara Drive	7.20
12. End of Sylvan Drive	6.29
13. Molegan Rd/High Meadow	2.97
14. Molegan Rd/Moose Hill	6.03
15. Corner Burdette & R.L. 110	23.06
16. Ballato Drive	3.90
17. Ballato Drive #2	4.84
18. Near Murphy's Lane	3.28
19. Thompson Street	10.00
20. Captain's Watch	5.82
21. Deert Drive	3.68
22. Birdseye Rd/Tuckahoe Dr.	14.75
23. Parallel to Cobblestone Dr	7.60
24. Parallel to Robin Ridge	2.70
25. Haiswatha Trail	3.07
26. End of Haiswatha Trail	3.14
27. Parallel to Talmere Dr	2.17
28. Talmere Dr/Village Dr	15.10
29. End of Woodland Ave.	43.33
30. Leavenworth Rd - north	.99
31. Nicholade Farm	32.70
32. Rearing Brook	44.87
33. Crown Tool (Nicholade)	10.02
34. Nicholade Addition	12.63
35. Lane Street	3.06
36. Lane Street	2.71

Shelton Land Trust Properties



VISION

Trust Goals:

1. To protect the natural diversity and beauty of Shelton by preserving significant land and scenic areas.
2. To promote appreciation and understanding of the environment through community education programs and special events.
3. To help land owners develop and implement conservation plans for their valued land.
4. To provide a grass-roots voice for conservation of local natural resources and the responsible development of our community.

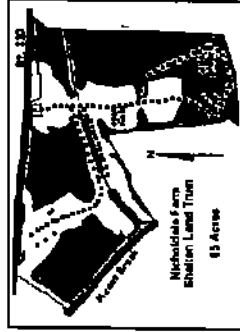
The Shelton Land Conservation Trust, Inc. invites everyone interested in preserving open space in Shelton to join the trust. Help to insure that our community continues to balance moderate, environmentally sound development with continuing expansion of protected undeveloped open space for the benefit of future generations.

HISTORY

The Shelton Land Conservation Trust was created in 1969 as an outgrowth of activities by some concerned citizens who banded together to clean up litter that had been illegally dumped along the banks of the Far Mill River in the Huntington section of town. With the support of newly elected mayor Francis X. Kelly, a non-profit land trust was organized to preserve and protect open space within the city. The first property of the trust was a tiny .3 acre parcel acquired by the city as a collection of back taxes and donated to the trust in 1971. Subsequent parcels were acquired from developers, open space concessions, through donations from private owners, from additional gifts from the city, and through direct purchase with the help of state and federal grants.

Today, the Trust's properties include over 365 acres in 30 parcels spread across all areas of the city. As pressure for change and development continue to escalate, the Shelton Land Conservation Trust's role as an active steward and defender of our local environment is crucial to maintaining a balanced approach to growth in the City of Shelton.

NICHOLDALE FARM



Located on Route 110 four miles north of downtown Shelton, Nicholdale Farm is the most accessible and developed property owned by the Shelton Land Conservation Trust. The public is encouraged to enjoy this 65 acre parcel of mixed hardwoods and open pasture. A developed system of trails suitable for hiking and cross country skiing, a scout camping and picnic area, and a small brook offer opportunities to explore this wonderful local resource. A small parking area is available on Rt. 110.

More information at:
http://sheltonexplore.org/trails/nicholdale_farm.htm

SHELTON LAND CONSERVATION TRUST, INC.

PO Box 2776 - Huntington Station, Shelton, CT 06484

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(Dues are payable by October 1 each year)

Type of Membership - Circle One
Regular Membership \$10.00/year
Life Membership \$250.00
Honorary Membership Elected by Board of Directors

Additional Donation: \$ _____

Name _____

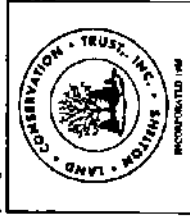
Address _____

City _____

Phone _____

Signature _____

The Shelton Land Conservation Trust is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.



THE SEAL OF THE SHELTON LAND CONSERVATION TRUST shows a landscape of a typical rural New England scene...the hardy maple tree and the stately spruce located on a natural site.